

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PLANNING PROGRAM (CDBG-PLNG)

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Planning Program provides funding to local governments and community partnerships that have clearly identified a community or economic development concern, or opportunity, and lack the resources needed to plan an appropriate response. The program's goals are two-fold; 1) to help communities develop clear and actionable strategies for addressing specific site, neighborhood, community or regional economic or development needs and 2) to improve the quality of community or economic development projects by helping to fund local plans.

Eligible Activities

- **Regional Economic Development Grants** to fund plans for multi-county and regional approaches to addressing economic development issues. These grants are available to counties or multi-county partnerships wishing to develop plans to diversify the local or regional economy, attract new businesses and jobs, coordinate economic development efforts, respond to sudden and significant job loss or persistent high unemployment, or address other significant economic issues. Grants of up to \$25,000 are available for projects with a county-wide focus or up to \$20,000/county, but not more than \$100,000 for multi-county partnerships. Regions exhibiting high distress will receive first priority.
- **Community Planning Grants** are available for community wide planning or to develop strategies more narrowly focused on specific existing neighborhoods, including business districts that are in, or are in danger of, decline or deterioration. The Department provides grants up to \$25,000 for planning and strategic development activities that
 - develop and utilize collaborations among community stakeholders;
 - assess and analyze demographic/economic data (including downtown market analysis),
 - address economic or physical blight conditions;
 - prepare plans to physically improve downtown business districts,
 - conduct environmental or historic preservation studies,
 - prepare plans for development of urban waterfronts.
- **Site Specific Planning Grants**, up to \$15,000, are available to help plan for the use or reuse of a specific site, for example, the adaptive reuse of a former hospital or school building, or potential use of a parcel of land. Eligible activities include community assessments, needs analysis and prioritization; strategy development; preliminary design; and actions to organize, survey and engage affected residents, stakeholders or beneficiaries.
- **Functional planning** grants of up to \$15,000 are available to help communities assess and develop specific responses to broader needs that exist within the community. Among the potential targets for these grants are implementation strategies for comprehensive plans; affordable housing; energy conservation; accessibility; historic preservation; small business assistance; flood mitigation; telecommunications services; or response plans to plant closings, natural disasters or other emergencies.

Eligibility Requirements

- Eligible applicants are units of government eligible for the CDBG Small Cities Program in Wisconsin. Entitlement communities are not eligible.
- Planning proposals must address an activity which, if implemented, meets at least one of two national objectives under the CDBG Program. That is, it must be shown that either 1) at least 51 percent of the persons who would benefit from implementation of the plan are low or moderate income persons, or 2) the plan addresses a slum or blighted area in the community.
- Proposed planning activities must relate to projects that are CDBG eligible.

Match Requirements

- Successful applicants must provide a match equivalent to at least 50 percent of the total grant award (of which not more than 25 percent can be in-kind) from sources other than grants provided by the federal or state government.

Submission of Applications: For more information including application materials, please contact Doug Thurlow at 608/266-7942 or e-mail at: Douglas.Thurlow@Wisconsin.gov. Also visit the web site at www.commerce.wi.gov/cd. Applications are to be submitted to: **WI Department of Commerce, Bureau of Planning & Downtown Development, P.O. Box 7970, Madison, WI 53707; 608/266-7942; Fax 608/266-8969.**